

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 148 (2003)¹ on the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters

The Congress,

1. Having regard to:

a. Resolutions 1264 (2001), 1578 (2002) and 1320 (2003) and Recommendation 1595 (2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning the adoption of electoral rules at European level;

b. work by international bodies on electoral rules and practice at European level, in particular recent documents by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (ODIHR/OSCE) and the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO);

2. Welcoming:

a. the setting up by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of a Council for Democratic Elections, in which the Assembly and the Congress are represented;

b. the Venice Commission's adoption of a Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, as recommended by the Parliamentary Assembly and drawn up by the Council for Democratic Elections;

3. Having taken part in drawing up the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters through two of its members, representing the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions respectively;

4. Wishes to congratulate the Parliamentary Assembly and the Venice Commission on their outstanding work and thank them for giving the Congress a part in it;

5. Convinced of the importance, for the Council of Europe, of:

a. officially recognising the work which has been done within the Organisation on electoral matters, which now constitutes a substantial body of knowledge and expertise;

b. shouldering its institutional responsibilities by promoting that asset appropriately;

6. Hopes that the achievements of setting up the Council for Democratic Elections and adopting the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters will be consolidated by initiatives which match the Council of Europe's ambitions;

7. Decides to circulate the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters to all members of the Congress by letter of the President so that it can be used forthwith for guidance on holding local and regional elections;

8. Confirms that the two Congress representatives on the Council for Democratic Elections must come from the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions;

9. To implement paragraph 8 above, instructs its Institutional Committee to appoint representatives of the chambers' institutional committees.

1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 21 March 2003 (see Document CG (9) 26, draft resolution presented by Mr L. Cuatrecasas, rapporteur).